

REMARKS

OVERVIEW

Claims 1 and 19 have been amended. Previously withdrawn claims 10-18 are now cancelled. Claims 27-32 are also cancelled. Claims 33-35 are new.

ISSUES UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 27-32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Applicant has cancelled claims 27-32 and therefore this rejection is now moot.

ISSUES UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claims 1-6, 8-9, 19-22, 24-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Masuda ct 6,400,556. Claims 7, 23 and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masuda in view of Pathare 5,986,877. Independent claims 1 and 19 have been amended to clearly distinguish over Masuda.

Claim 1 has been amended to require "the wire lower face surface being free from the conductive powder element". Support for the quoted recitation is found in Figure 1 and Figure 6 as well as described in the specification on page 4, lines 21-27 and page 6, lines 3-8. Masuda in contrast requires a sintered valve metal 3 on both the upper and lower base surfaces. Thus, Masuda does not disclose the required limitation. Therefore, this rejection to claim 1 should be withdrawn. As claims 2-9 and 33 depend from claim 1, these rejections should also be withdrawn.

Additionally, claim 19 has been amended to require "a conductive powder element upon the wire covering a portion of only the upper face surface". This limitation clearly is not present

in Masuda which requires a sintered valve metal on both the upper and lower surface of the wire.

As claims 20-26, 34 and 35 depend from claim 19, these rejections should also be withdrawn.

NEW CLAIMS

New claim 33 depends from claim 1 and adds the additional limitation of "the wire lower face surface is uncovered". As seen in Masuda, the lower face of the wire is both covered with a sintered valve metal and a casing resin. In sharp contrast, dependent claim 33 requires there to be neither of these materials upon the wire lower face surface. Therefore, claim 33 is allowable.

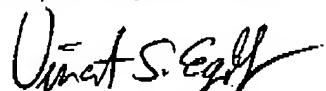
New claims 34 and 35 depend from claim 19 and require the additional limitations "wherein the wire lower face surface is free from the conductive powder element" and "wherein the wire lower face surface is uncovered", respectively. Neither of these limitations are disclosed by Masuda and therefore claims 34 and 35 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

Based upon the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance, as they are patentably distinguishable over the prior art. No fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this amendment; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 26-0084.

Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



VINCENT S. EGOLF, Reg. No. 51,131
McKEE, VOORHEES & SEASE, P.L.C.
801 Grand Avenue, Suite 3200
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-2721
Phone No: (515) 288-3667
Fax No: (515) 288-1338
CUSTOMER NO: 22885

Attorneys of Record

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